

# Annual Legislative Report

April 2023

# RTA



# RTA Overview

- Established by Public Act 387 of 2012
- Four-county region that includes Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.
- 10-member board is appointed by the county executives of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, the chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, the Mayor of Detroit, and the Governor of Michigan

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Paul Hillegonds,  
Chair

Freman  
Hendrix,  
City of Detroit

Don Morandini,  
Macomb County

Jon Moore,  
Macomb County

Helaine Zack,  
Oakland County

Jeannette  
Bradshaw,  
Oakland County

Dr. Erica  
Robertson,  
Wayne County

June Lee,  
Wayne County

Alma Smith,  
Washtenaw  
County

Ned Staebler,  
Washtenaw  
County

# RTA Mission and Vision

**Our mission** is to manage and secure transportation resources that significantly enhance mobility options, to improve quality of life for the residents and to increase economic viability for the region

**We envision** a region with sufficient and stable funding to support improved public transit options that will advance equity by increasing accessibility; satisfy the integrated mobility needs of Southeast Michigan communities; and promote livable, healthy, and sustainable growth



# What is the RTA?



**FUND** - Distributes existing funding, secures and generates new funding.

**PLAN** - Develops regional plan, advance strategic plans, pilots, and projects.

**COORDINATE**- Convenes providers and citizens to discuss issues and develop joint solutions.

**ACCELERATE** – Develop pilots, advance new ideas, build new partnerships.



Operate transit services

Own and maintain fleets and facilities

Collaborate on regional planning initiatives

Lead service area planning, pilots, and capital projects.

# 2022 Accomplishments – Major Highlights

## EXPAND

- D2A2 surpassed 5,000 rides/month
- *Detroit Workforce Mobility Equity Analysis*
- SMART Flex zone expansions and Metropark Express
- Awarded funding to pilot an airport express service

## ENHANCE

- *The Ride 2045 & DDOT Reimagined*
- Woodward Avenue dedicated lane pilot and Transit Signal Priority
- Gratiot and Washtenaw Avenue PELs
- *Regional Transit Corridor Strategy & Gratiot Avenue Transit Capital Funding Blueprint*
- Regional 5310 Funding Call for Projects: in 2022, \$4M+ to community transit providers for capital improvements and operating assistance

## INNOVATE

- DDOT/SMART electric bus deployment and additional funding
- Mobility Wallet Application

## PARTNER

- Access to Transit Program to fund and implement transit stop improvements

## FINANCE

- Increased AAATA Millage
- SMART Millage
- Oakland County Millage (no more opt-outs)
- Michigan Avenue RAISE Grant BCA
- RTA Business Plan

# Key Upcoming Initiatives

- **Coordinated regional investment**  
Call for Projects - American Rescue Plan
- **Health and Wellness transportation**  
Call for Projects – Senior/Disabled Services
- **Regional corridors**  
Advancing/supporting MDOT corridor projects  
Call for Projects – Access to Transit
- **Large regional connections**  
Airport to Downtown pilot
- **Regional technology**  
Mobility Wallet grant
- **Workforce**



# Legislative Items

- **Flexibility for RTA.**

  - Establishing different taxing jurisdictions

  - Flexibility in the timing of ballot initiatives

- **State funding for capital projects to support a multi-corridor bus rapid transit program.**

  - State funding can leverage up to 4x return

- **State funding for Local Bus Operating (LBO) Assistance Program.**

  - Best way to add critical operating funding

- **Funding to sustain D2A2 and other regional services like the upcoming airport pilot.**

  - Need to sustain critical regional services

- **Funding to sustain the RTA's administration.**

  - Need for sustained funding to continue our Mission and implement our Vision